



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

3175 W. Sixth Street, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, California, 90020
www.lahumanrelations.org
(213) 738-2788

[PROPOSED] MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Meeting of December 7, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

PRESENT: Jarrett Tomás Barrios
Ilan Davidson
Kathleen Domingo
Adrian Dove
Jeanette Ellis-Royston
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Porter Gilberg
Derric Johnson
Preeti Kulkarni
Sam Liu
Guadalupe Montaña
Fredrick Sykes
Sandra Thomas

ABSENT: Isabelle Gunning

STAFF: Robin Toma
Robert Sowell
Fidel Rodriguez
Grace Löwenberg
Jaye Winter

1. **Call to Order, Flag Salute, and Moment of Silence:** President Guadalupe Montaña called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. with a quorum of 13 commissioners in attendance.
2. **Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Ilan Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Sandra Thomas to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of November 2, 2020. President Montaña abstained due to absence. Motion carried.
3. **President’s Report:** No report.
4. **Executive Director’s Report**
 - 4.1. **Meet the Staff– Fidel Rodriguez:** Executive Director Toma introduced staff member Fidel Rodriguez, Senior Intergroup Relations Specialist. Mr. Rodriguez shared a brief biography, highlighting his long tenure as an HRC staff member before leaving, and then returning to the Commission earlier in the spring. He is a specialized healer and has experience spanning decades in the area of youth trauma-informed care since 1993. Mr. Rodriguez additionally hosted his own radio program and has led past youth conferences. Presently he is providing support to the Commission’s LA vs Hate Campaign.
 - 4.2. **Staff Goals for this Fiscal Year:** Mr. Toma shared the Human Relations branch’s FY 2020-2021 Management Appraisal Performance Planning (MAPP) goals document, which are absorbed into the larger WDACS and Acting Director’s departmentwide goals, ultimately submitted to the Department of Human Resources and CEO. The four major Commission goals focus upon: 1) Stemming rising hate with Countywide “LA vs. Hate” Initiative by uniting the county against hate – especially in the face of COVID-

related anti-Asian discrimination and hate; calling on residents to report hate acts (both crimes and incidents); and building community capacity to respond to, educate and prevent hate, by securing necessary funding to sustain the LA vs. Hate campaign and program by June 30, 2021. 2) The Countywide Equity Initiative (Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative) by taking the necessary actions by June 30, 2021 so as to be on track to fulfill the board directive of presenting to the Board an annual report on the state of Black LA county by June 30, 2022; 3) Increasing fairness and equity in the criminal justice systems in LA County by driving at least two major policy or practice changes in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), or at least 2 major law enforcement agencies in LA County (LASD, LAPD, Long Beach police, Glendale police, Pasadena police) by June 30, 2021; and 4) Transforming hostility into peace by adapting the LA County Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) to pandemic conditions via the shift to online mediation services and promote greater public awareness of the availability of these free conflict resolution services so that utilization of the County's DRP will increase by June 30, 2021.

Separately, Mr. Toma added that the branch and department—along with all County departments—are facing potential 3%, 5%, and 7% CEO-requested budget reduction scenarios for the current and next fiscal years, as a result of the pandemic's continuing impact on county revenues. He will keep the commission apprised of any budget impacts. Nonetheless, as the County is in the midst of its annual budget process, the branch will proceed with stating and requesting all of its budget needs to fund adequately its major programs and ongoing work. On a positive related note, WDACS is expected to honor its pledged support for a 2021 IAOHRA conference, should it take place in Los Angeles.

Finally, he stated that the Commission will begin work on developing the next Human Relations strategic plan, the most recent of which ended this year.

4.3. Report on Inaugural United Against Hate Week: Ms. Terri Villa-McDowell, Sr. Human Relations Consultant, was invited to report as the team leader of LA vs Hate's inaugural United Against Hate Week. She explained the successes in bringing together chambers of commerce, education stakeholders, the corporate healthcare community, as well as the arts and media, for a successful week, expanding the awareness of LA vs. Hate to new sectors.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations: Commissioner Fredrick Sykes gave the report in place of Chair Isabelle Gunning, who was unable to attend. Noting that in light of voters' successful approval of Measure J, by January 2021 the committee will be better poised with ideas about how to proceed with its recommendations.

5.2. John Anson Ford (JAF) Awards Event Committee: Committee Chair Ilan Davidson explained the need for postponement of the January 2021 JAF Human Relations Awards event. The installation of newly elected Supervisor Holly Mitchell (Second District). without knowledge of the Supervisor's new incoming staff meant insufficient knowledge and time to communicate important details and get approval for awardees. More discussion and details are forthcoming.

5.3. Ad Hoc Committee on Policy & Advocacy: Committee Chair Montaña conveyed that it is an advantageous moment to present a recommendation for the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to the Board, in partnership with the County's own Women & Girls Initiative (WGI) and the Commission on Women). There are hopes to introduce such a motion to the all-female Board of Supervisors in January, which would express support for CEDAW

and a report back. The Committee will circulate a draft of the recommendation as soon as it is available from the WGI.

Regarding the Commission and branch's place in the County structure in light of the creation of separate Aging and Workforce Development departments, Chair Montaña encouraged commissioners to approach their supervisors to advocate for standalone agency status. Restructuring of WDACS may be in place by the end of the year.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1. Implementation Phase – Redefining Policing Recommendations: No items for consideration at this time. Item to be continued on future agendas.

7.2. LA vs Hate Update: Mr. Toma gave the report that staff submitted a grant request to the County Quality & Productivity Commission (QPC) for the *LA vs Hate* program. In its feedback, the QPC expressed a desire to support the program, but asks that the proposal be re-framed. It is therefore being revised, and staff will contact QPC again in early 2021.

7.3. Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative: Mr. Toma and Assistant Executive Director Mr. Robert Sowell provided the update that CEO is due to hire an executive officer soon in order to lead the County's Anti-Racism, Diversity & Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative portfolio. Other updates on Commission responsibilities for other important ARDI projects.

7.4. Ban on “No Knock” Warrants (Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston): President Montaña referred this item to the Human Relations & Policing Committee with the Commissioners' assent.

8. Commissioners' Comments/Announcements: Mr. Davidson gave an open invitation to Hannukah virtual programs being offered by Temple Beth-El. Commissioner Dove, who leads the 2021 MLK Parade planning committee, welcomed parade ideas from all commissioners. Mr. Sykes suggested that in the coming year, the Commission consider recommending a motion to the Board focusing on eradication of racist language and symbols countywide, as five states in the country have done. Ms. Ellis-Royston recommended a book on race in America by Michael Eric Dyson. And Commissioner Derric Johnson invited all to a virtual event later in the afternoon hosted by Crossroads Equity & Justice Institute.

9. Adjournment: It was moved by Davidson and seconded by Ellis-Royston to adjourn the meeting in memory of Tomas Olmos, attorney and social justice advocate; Bruce Boynton, civil rights pioneer; and Jan Morris, author and transgender pioneer. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary